Government policy has been not to raise any Regiment based on caste, creed, region or religion.

Waiving off Loans of Weaver Cooperative Societies

890. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to waive off the loans upto Rupees ten thousand of weaver cooperative societies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, under which debt relief to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower was extended by Government to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas. The ARDR Scheme formulated by the Central Government was applicable to public sector banks and regional rural banks whereas the Schemes formulated by the State Governments were applicable to cooperative banks in their respective States. The Schemes came to an end on 31.3.1991. In terms of the Debt Relief Schemes, loans overdue of the weaver of the rural areas, provided either by public sector banks or regional rural banks or cooperatives were eligible for providing necessary debt relief. The scheme was not applicable to the weavers or artisans of the urban/semi-urban areas.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Spinning Mills

891. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the modernisation of some spinning mills including the Parvathy Mills, Quilon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). The Union Government has so far not received any proposals for the modernisation to spinning mills of Kerala. However, Parvathy Mills, Quilon, Kerala one of the units of NTC (APKK&M) has been given assistance of Rs. 10 Crores under Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS) in October, 1988 for modernisation of its spinning, weaving and processing sections. Besides, an assistance of Rs. 58 crores under TMFS has been sanctioned for modernisation of 23 Textile Mills of Kerala.

Raids by Narcotics Control Bureau in Kerala

892. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) the details of the narcotic drugs seized during the above period, along with the value thereof and the number of persons arrested; and

(c) the number of offenders who have absconded after the seizure of narcotic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The number of searches

and illicit plants destruction operations carried out by the Narcotics Control Bureau in Kerala during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Number of searches/ Illicit Plant destruction operations
1989	9
1990	5
1991	4

(b) and (c). The details of narcotic during seized during the said searches/operations are as given below:

Year	*Quantity of drugs (In kgs.)*		
	Heroin	*Opium*	*Ganja*
1989	2.175	23.040	1785
1990	—	—	736
1991	—	—	Ganja Plants destroyed (Approximately 209 acres)

During the above said period 18 persons were arrested in those searches/operations. No offender had absconded in those cases. In some cases on approach of officials, some unidentified person ran away from the scenic.

No precise valuation of narcotic drugs, which are liable to be destroyed, is feasible.

Widening of Trivandrum-Quilon Section of N.H. No. 47 into Four Lanes

893. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the Trivandrum-Quilon section of N.H. No. 47 into four lanes;

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started; and

(c) the time scheduled laid down for its completions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

[*Translation*]

Value of Rupee

894. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of rupee at present treating 1980 as base year;

(b) whether the value of rupee has gone down to a great extent during the last five years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The value of rupee, measured as a reciprocal of consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers, treating 1980 as a base year, was 35 paise in December 1991 (latest available)

(b) and (c). The value of rupee during the last 5 years, treating 1980 as base year, is given below.